

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A computer-implemented method for controlling an
2 auction event between a plurality of computer systems on a
3 multi-user and interactive network, the method comprising
4 the steps of: setting at least one parameter value for use
5 in precluding submitted bids of one or more bidders by a
6 seller identifying the parameter value when registering for
7 an auction at one computer system; and, automatically
8 precluding submitted bids from users at other computer
9 systems on the network during the auction event that are
10 identified by the set parameter value.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein a seller sets the
2 at least one parameter value by an item registration
3 mechanism when registering the auction at the one computer
4 system for the auction event.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the setting of the
2 at least one parameter value and the registering for an
3 auction event is achieved by allowing a seller to use a
4 user interface.

1 4. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step
2 of configuring a bid monitoring mechanism with the set
3 parameter value.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the set parameter
2 value specifies a preclusion date attribute such that the
3 bid monitoring mechanism will preclude submitted bids
4 before the preclusion date during the auction.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the set parameter
2 value specifies a preselected bid amount attribute wherein

3 that the bid monitoring mechanism will preclude from
4 consideration submitted bids below the preselected amount
5 during the auction.

1 7. The method of claim 4 wherein a plurality of
2 parameter values are set by the item registration mechanism
3 for configuring the bid monitoring mechanism so that
4 submitted bids will be precluded if at least one of the
5 plurality of set parameter values is not identified by the
6 bid monitoring mechanism during the auction.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the plurality of
2 parameter values which are set relate to precluding
3 submitted bids from being accepted during an auction by the
4 auction manager.

1 9. A computer system adapted for use in a network,
2 the computer system comprising: a memory containing an item
3 registration application which accepts user input regarding
4 an auction, and a bid monitoring application, the bid
5 monitoring application is configurable by user input to the
6 item registration application; and, a processor which
7 performs operations comprising: setting at least one
8 parameter value for use in precluding submitted bids of one
9 or more bidders by a user identifying the parameter when
10 registering for an auction using the item registration
11 application; and, automatically precluding bids from a user
12 at another computer system on the network during the
13 auction event that is identified by the set parameter
14 value.

1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the at least one
2 parameter value set by the item registration application is
3 a preclusion date.

1 11. The system of claim 9 wherein the at least one
2 parameter value set by the item registration application is
3 a preclusion bid amount.

1 12. The system of claim 9 wherein the user sets a
2 plurality of parameter values wherein one of the parameter
3 values is a preclusion bid amount and a second parameter
4 value is a preclusion date amount.

1 13. A computer program product adapted to facilitate
2 exclusion of bids automatically prior to bids being entered
3 during an online auction on a computer network, the
4 computer program product comprising:

5 a medium readable by a computer, the computer
6 readable medium having a computer program code to:

7 allow an user to set at least one parameter value for
8 use in precluding bids of one or more bidders by a seller
9 identifying the parameter value when registering for an
10 auction at one computer system on a network; and,

11 automatically precluding bids from users at other
12 computer systems on the network during the auction event
13 that are identified by the set parameter value.

1 14 The computer program product of claim 13 wherein
2 a user sets the at least one parameter value by an item
3 registration mechanism when registering the auction at the
4 one computer system for the auction event.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein
2 the setting of the at least one parameter value and the
3 registering for an auction event is achieved by allowing a
4 user to use a graphical user interface.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 15 further
2 comprising a bid monitoring mechanism that is configurable
3 with the set parameter value.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein
2 the set parameter value specifies a preclusion date
3 attribute such that the bid monitoring mechanism will
4 preclude submitted bids before the preclusion date from
5 being entered during the auction.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 17 wherein
2 the set parameter specifies a preselected bid amount
3 attribute wherein that the bid monitoring mechanism will
4 preclude from consideration bids below the preselected
5 amount being entered during the auction.

1 19. A computer network implemented method of
2 processing an online auction event in a multi-user
3 networked environment, between a plurality of bidder client
4 computer systems, an internet service provider server
5 computer system, and a seller at a client computer system,
6 comprising the steps of:

7 receiving at the server a request from a seller client
8 computer system for an auction to sell a good and/or
9 service, the server comprising a main memory including: an
10 item registration application and a bid monitoring
11 application; a processor, and database storage for
12 identifying and tracking files associated respectively with
13 the seller and bidders;

14 receiving seller information at the server through the
15 item registration application which information is stored
16 in the database storage and at least one parameter value

17 that is set by the seller and which set value is used for
18 configuring the bid monitoring application; and,

19 monitoring submitted bids at the server from bidder
20 clients by cross referencing the submitted bids in
21 accordance with the set parameter value in the database for
22 determining automatically if a submitted bid is to be
23 automatically from being considered in the auction event.

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